

# **BIPSOC RULES & STANDARDS SUBCOMMITTEE**

**Meeting of July 11th, 2006**

## **MINUTES**

### **DRAFT**

**Present: (5) Sisan Smallman, Probation & Parole; Laura Jaworski, BIPSOC; Kathy Carty, Vantage Point; Adrienne McGowan, Probation & Parole.**

#### **Materials Distributed:**

- Minutes from May 9th, 2006 meeting.**
- Agenda for July 11th, 2006 meeting.**

**Sisan called the meeting to order at 2:35p.m. Minutes from the May 9th, 2006 meeting were adopted without change.**

**Adrienne McGowan requested clarification on an issue that she has come across lately in her work with programs. It appears as though a program is informing clients that they have 2 weeks to start a group in the program. In accordance with the Comprehensive Standards, programs have 2 weeks to enroll a client in a group. This area of the Standards may require some clarification, which Laura may look into**

rewriting.

Sisan reported that she has been working with another Subcommittee, unrelated to the Batterers Intervention Program Standards Oversight Committee, on drafting guidelines for sex offender treatment. The state of Colorado has very detailed Standards, which we might be able to use as a reference only in addressing particular areas of the draft revision of the Standards. For example, the Colorado Standards address the inability to participate in group treatment as a result of geographic (for Rhode Island, Block Island), disability (physical, cognitive, etc), or language (difficulty securing translators/groups for Southeast Asian or Eastern European languages) reasons. Typically these issues are settled between the Probation Officer and the batterers program; further assistance can be obtained in consultation with the BIPSOC Chair.

The Colorado Standards also address group format. For example, the therapist to client ratio is 1:8, with no more than 12 in a group. The occasional illness or absence of a therapist may make this ratio larger. Contact with both male and female therapists is encouraged, but not always feasible. Some groups may be larger due to the didactic nature of the topic that is to be presented. Most of the time, groups are congruent with the Standards- these are the exceptions.

Kathy reported that this additional information leans towards micro-managing of programs. Many of the topic areas addressed are

decisions that an individual has to make when running a business. Adrienne feels that a clause should be added stating that batterers intervention programs are not a punishment, but a rehabilitative opportunity. The clause should further state that if any of the Standards go against this idea for any client's particular circumstance, than exceptions may be made. Sisan agreed with the message of this proposed clause, however feels that the purpose is to teach non-abusive behaviors and techniques. Kathy reported that she is concerned when other treatment is readily dismissed (i.e. substance abuse, mental health); batterers intervention is only one aspect of treatment of the individual.

Additional agenda items – more detailed proposals for how to address these issues within the Standards, and proposals on responding to changes in business entity – were held for next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

#### **UPCOMING SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS:**

**August 8th, 2006 @ 2:30-4pm**

**September 12th, 2006 @ 2:30 – 4:00**

**October 10th, 2006 @ 2:30 – 4:00**

**Conference Room, 1st Floor, Bernadette Building**

**RIDOC**

**15 Fleming Road**

**Cranston, RI**

**NEXT BIPSOC MEETING:**

**August 7th, 2006 @ 2:00**

**Conference Room C**

**Department of Administration**

**One Capitol Hill**

**Providence, RI**

**Minutes Prepared by Laura Jaworski**